consultation with the concerned Ministries. The concerned Ministries offer their comments at different levels of decision making. The final decision is taken after considering the views of all concerned Ministries.

Disinvestment Process of PSUs

2502. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) by when the disinvestment process of PSUs will start in full swing; and

(b) which are the companies which will be offered for disinvestment in the next one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Disinvestment is an ongoing process. It is carried out keeping in view the Government policy, recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, market conditions, financial performance of the Companies and in consultation with the concerned Ministries. For these reasons the names of the Companies for disinvestment are decided at appropriate time keeping all the above factors in view. It is, therefore, not possible to earmark Companies for disinvestment in the next one year.

Disinvestment of Fast Track

2503. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Mamta throws disinvestment off fast track" published in the telegraph, dated 25th March, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether there was any proposal to sell off/disinvest National Instruments Limited, as reported in the aforesaid news-item; and

(c) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy of disinvestment has been articulated by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2000-2001.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Social Security net to Safeguard Employees

2504. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop a social security net to safeguard employees rendered unemployed by the disinvestment process.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy adopted therefor; sector-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) One of the elements of Government's policy towards Public Sector is to protect the interest of the workers. Adequate safeguards in this regard are provided in the Shareholders Agreement in case of disinvestment through strategic sale, involving transfer of management. Even without disinvestment, Government has approved a very liberal VRS package for surplus employees of Central Public Sector employees.

Strengthening of Vigilance Machinery of PSUs

†2505. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the vigilance machinery of public sector and private sector undertakings have been strengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some special facilities have been provided to the officers involved in this task;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.